

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS

REF: STATE 011502

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO PRESENTED U.S. VIEWS IN REFTEL TO FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA AND SEVERAL GENEVA GROUP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE JANUARY 17 MEETING OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL WITH COUNTRY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO, AND SUMMARIZED THEM IN ORAL RESPONSE TO FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PRESENTATION.

2. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY ALL COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, AND LASTED MORE THAN TWO HOURS. BOERMA MADE CAREFUL DETAILED REPORT OF HIS EXCHANGES WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ON INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY THEIR MEETING IN NEW YORK JANUARY 9-10. (HIS BRIEFING ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM.)

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3. BOERMA REFERRED TO LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM WALDHEIM

BEFORE JANUARY 9-10 MEETING, IN WHICH WALDHEIM INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, BELIEVED ITS SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD HAVE RANK OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL. IN JANUARY 9-10 MEETING WALDHEIM ALSO RAISED OBJECTIONS TO ANY FORMAL RELATIONSHIP OF SECRETARIAT TO FAO. BOERMA SAID HE OBJECTED TO THESE TWO POINTS: (A) HIGH RANK OF SECRETARY GENERAL, WHICH PRESUMABLY IMPLIED SUBSTANTIAL SECRETARIAT STAFF, AND (B) LACK OF ANY SUBORDINATION OF SECRETARIAT TO FAO. HE STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO DRAMATIZE THESE DIFFERENCES, WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE WORKD OUT IN PRACTICAL FASHION. HE SAID HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF OBLIGATED TO SEEK COUNSEL FROM FAO COUNCIL AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS BEFORE YIELDING ON THESE POINTS, WHICH HE CONSIDERS CONTRARY TO INTENT OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS. ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WFC SECRETARIAT AND FAO HE DREW PARALLEL WITH WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, WHICH IS TECHNICALLY SUBORDINATED BUT IN FACT FULL POWER IS DELEGATED TO ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

4. IN REACTIONS TO BOERMA'S PRESENTATIONS ON SECRETARIAT ISSUE, FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA-HOYOS NOTED THAT SPECIAL FAO COUNCIL SESSION IN MARCH IS TO CONSIDER SPECIALLY THIS PROBLEM, AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT COULD BE WORKED OUT HARMONIOUSLY WITHOUT CONFRONTATION. ARGENTINA, AND EVEN MORE STRONGLY SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVES CRITICIZED UN SECRETARIAT DESIRE TO DEVELOP NEW STRUCTURE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM FAO. THEY CONTENTED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WAS INTENDED TO REACH HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISIONS AND GIVE TEETH TO FAO'S EFRORTS TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES IT IS NOT EMPOWERED TO ACCOMPLISH OTHERWISE, BUT NOT DUPLICATE FAO ACTIVITIES. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIS ON PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF WFC SECRETARIAT TO WFC ITSELF, BOERMA SAID HE FULLY AGREED, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT FURTHER DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH FAO IS NECESSARY.

5. BOERMA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME GOVERNMENTS' ADVICE ON THIS PROBLEM. SIERRA LEONE REPRESENTATIV SPOKE OF CONVEYING VIEWS OF AFRICAN BLOC WHICH ARE TO BE FORMAULATED IN MEETING NEXT WEEK. BOERMA EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WISHED GOVERNMENT VIEWS, NOTING THAT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME SOMETIMES GAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF SAME COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK, AND EMPHASIZING THAT HE WANTED GOVERNMENT IMPRINT ON ANY VIEWS.

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6. FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, SIERRA LEONE, AND NIGERIA URGED REPRESENTATION OF LDC'S IN TOP-LEVEL PRESONNEL, AND CRITICIZED PREDOMINANCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' (I.E. UNITED STATES) REPRESENTATIVES.

7. BOERMA ANNOUNCED HE WILL MEET ONE HALF DAY WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM DURING LATTER'S VISIT IN ITALY FEBRUARY 10-12, ALTHOUGH THIS REQUIRES BOERMA TO DROP PAKISTAN FROM HIS ITINERARY

OF VISITS TO FAR EASTERN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

8. IN COURSE OF QUESTIONING, BOERMA INDICATED THAT BUDGET BEING PRESENTED TO ACAPQ FOR CORPS FINANCING BY UNITED NATIONS CALLS FOR UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL RANK FOR SECRETARY GENERAL OF WFC (NOT FOR ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL HANNAH).

9. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE PRESENTATION OF U.S. VIEWS BEFOREHAND MODERATED BOERMA'S PRESENTATION CONSIDERABLY, BUT HE DOES CONSIDER HIMSELF OBLIGED BY FAO COUNCIL INSTRUCTION TO DISCUSS FULLY WITH FAO COUNCIL THIS QUESTION OF WFC SECRETARIAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAO. VOLPE

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